



countdown

February 26, 2009

Vol. 14, No. 15

Discovery flow control valves to be replaced on pad

Next-generation weather satellite moves to launch pad

◆ **Shuttle Update:** Technicians have removed the three gaseous hydrogen flow control valves from space shuttle Discovery. Managers continue to evaluate test data in an effort to gather enough information to finalize a plan setting a new target launch date for the STS-119 mission to the International Space Station.

As of press time, the plan had not yet been completed, but technicians will install flow control valves that have flown fewer times than the ones currently in Discovery's main propulsion system.

A Flight Readiness Review will be rescheduled to assess readiness for launch and set a formal launch target date.

◆ **ELV Update:** At Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, the GOES-O and Delta IV second stage were moved to the mobile service tower on Launch Pad 37. They will be raised to vertical and lifted into the mobile service tower for pre-launch preparations. Launch of GOES-O is targeted no earlier than April 28.

GOES-O is one of a series of Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites. The multi-mission GOES series N-P will be a vital contributor to weather, solar and space operations and science. NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, are actively engaged in a cooperative program to expand the existing GOES system with the launch of the GOES N-P satellites.

■ **Picnic Update** — Sign up online now for the **Annual Dessert Contest** as part of the KSC All-American Picnic on March 7. There will be four judged cate-

gories: cake, pie, cookies and candy. First and second place awards will be given in all judged categories.



All desserts must be at the dessert booth by 10 a.m. The judging takes place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Awards will be presented at 2 p.m.

Entrants must provide the dessert contest volunteers with the dessert title, entrant's name and category (cake, pie, cookies, or candy). Entrants also must provide a list of ingredients to ensure warnings against possible allergic reactions.

If interested, you can find a copy of the dessert contest rules and can pre-register at:

<http://kscpicnic.ksc.nasa.gov/dessert.htm>.

■ **NASA Exchange Ticket Office** — The NASA Exchange Ticket Office, in HQ/Room 1201, now has All-American Picnic tickets for sale. Also, all area attraction tickets, KARS Park memberships and KARS Park reservation can be purchased. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Effective immediately, for all KARS Park reservations, please see Kristina Bumgarner in the ticket office. For information, call 867-2632.

■ **Employee Assistance Program Lunch And Learn** — The topic "Does Someone You Care About Have An Alcohol Problem?" will be presented from noon to 12:30 p.m. Tuesday in the OHF (M6-495) library. Take advantage of this opportunity to educate yourself about alcohol use and abuse. Learn how to differentiate between use, abuse and

dependence. Find out what to do if there is a problem, mistakes to avoid, and what resources are available. Feel free to contact EAP, 867-7398, with any questions.

■ **Spring Cleaning** — Bring your bargains, art and crafts, etc., and put them on the table. The KSC "Spring Cleaning" Flea Market, sponsored by the NASA Exchange, will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 28 at KARS Park 1, 1300 East Hall Road (off S.R. 3). Table reservations are open to all KSC and CCAFS employees on a first-come, first-served basis for \$10. Need more space? Fifteen booths also are available for \$30 each.

You can reserve your table or booth by calling Annette Myers at 867-0431. All application forms must be completed and submitted with payment to HQ/Room 2328 by March 20. This event will be open to the public.

■ **NASA Science** — Even in space, someone has to clean the bathroom. ISS astronauts are using a tricorder-like device to help them 'swab the decks.' Read the full story at:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/06feb_locad.htm.

Countdown is published every Tuesday & Thursday for NASA KSC employees. Deadlines are 9 a.m. Mondays & Wednesdays. E-mail news to anita.l.barrett@nasa.gov. For questions or information, e-mail or call 867-2815. You can also find PDF editions of Countdown on the Web at: http://www.nasa.gov/centers/kennedy/news/countdown/countdown_toc.html.